

OGC 73-0343

1 March 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary, CIA Management
Committee

SUBJECT : Review of OGC Classification Authority
Delegations

In response to your memorandum of 21 February, I have reviewed the delegation of classification authority within this office. Only the General Counsel and Deputy General Counsel have been delegated authority with respect to Top Secret information and I see no realistic way that we can cut down on this situation. All of the attorneys, plus the business accountant, now have authority with respect to Secret and Confidential. I am revoking the authority as to three attorneys in the office, which will amount to a reduction of precisely 25 percent, that is, from 12 to 9.

STA

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

OGC:RHL:sin

Original - Addressee

- 1 - SECURITY-E.O. 11652-Classification & Declassification subj
- 1 - RHL signer
- 1 - Chrono

OGC Has Reviewed

1 March 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: OGC Personnel

SUBJECT : Authority to Classify Information

STATINTL

1. Under pressure from the ICRC, we have been asked to cut down on the number of people authorized to classify information, if we can. At present, the General Counsel and the Deputy General Counsel are authorized to classify at Top Secret. All staff attorneys and the business accountant are authorized to classify at Secret and Confidential. I believe we can do without the authorization to all lawyers without too much impact on the office work.

2. I am therefore withdrawing the classification authority for [] and the new attorney coming on in May. All attorneys originating documents which they believe warrant Top Secret classification should so mark the paper and identify the classifier by inserting the employee number of Mr. Warner. When Mr. Warner reviews and approves the paper for dispatch, he also becomes the classifier of the document. In his absence, I will perform this function and will substitute my own employee number.

3. The attorneys who no longer have authority with respect to Secret and Confidential information should follow the above Top Secret procedures also for Secret and Confidential, using the number of whichever authorized attorney may be appropriate.

STAT

[]
LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

OGC:RHL:sin

Original - SECURITY-E.O. 11652-Classification & Declassification subj
filed w/OGC 73-0343

- 1 - RHL signer
- 1 - Chrono

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21 FEB 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for Plans
Deputy Director for Science and Technology
Deputy Director for Support
Director of National Estimates
General Counsel
Inspector General
Legislative Counsel
Administrative Officer, DCI

SUBJECT: Review of Classification Authority Delegations

1. The National Security Council is concerned with the delegations of classification authority under Executive Order 11652 to more people than are necessary. We have had this interest called to our attention several times, particularly as our totals have shown an inclination to rise.

2. The Executive Order and the implementing National Security Council Directive place limitations upon the delegation and use of classifying authority. Of primary concern is need, rather than position or grade, and it is the intent that a real change take place in previously well-established classifying habits.

3. In view of the foregoing, it is requested that you undertake a review of the delegations of classification authority within your Directorates and Offices at all levels of classification. This review should take into account the need of the individual to possess a classification authority in terms of the definitions contained in Executive Order 11652. I would hope that the results of such a review would permit a reduction in our total numbers of authorized classifiers at all levels. The results of such a review will be reported by 10 March 1973.

W. E. Colby
W. E. Colby
Executive Secretary
CIA Management Committee